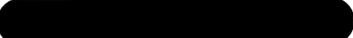


10 March 2026

The Honourable Enoch Godongwana, MP  
Minister of Finance  
National Treasury  
Private Bag X115  
PRETORIA  
0001

By email 

Dear Minister Godongwana

### **ADDRESSING THE FUEL PRICE HIKE DUE TO CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

I write to you in my capacity as the Head of Public Relations for the South African civil rights organisation AfriForum. Our organisation represents more than 300 000 donating members and as a civil society organisation we have a responsibility to take stances in the interest of the broader South African public, as well as their rights.

As you are aware, the recent outbreak of conflict in the Middle East has caused the oil price to surge more than 40%. Some experts estimate it could rise above \$150 a barrel. This concerning development is assured to dramatically increase the fuel price, causing a ripple effect throughout the global and domestic economy as almost all other prices rise due to the increased cost of transport.

AfriForum therefore urges you to not follow through with the fuel levy increase as was announced during your budget speech, but rather to introduce a fuel levy decrease instead to help the economy and consumers cope with the rise in the price of transport and basic goods. This type of action is not unprecedented. In March 2022 you, in cooperation with the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, jointly announced a temporary reduction in the general fuel levy of R1,50 per litre to provide relief to households from rising fuel prices following the Russia/Ukraine conflict. This relief was funded by a liquidation of a portion of the country's strategic crude oil reserves. AfriForum, alongside many experts, believe this to be the appropriate approach to cushion the impact of this latest crisis of a similar nature.

Yours sincerely



June 2024

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